History 474 – The Middle East Since 1500  
Spring 2016 – Tuesday, 4:00-6:40 PM – LSS-248

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 2:00-3:00 PM, and by appointment

Course Summary and Objectives

This course explores critical themes in the history of the Middle East from the sixteenth century to the present. It is in effect an in-depth introduction to the developments that went into the making of the Middle East in the twenty-first century. We will study major economic, social, and political processes that shaped the region in the modern period and seek to find appropriate contexts for problems such as social conflict, religious activism, expansion of authoritarianism, and intermittent war in the region. We will examine the ways in which the Middle East has adjusted to a period of rapid change, as many familiar institutions and practices in just about all spheres of life either disappeared or were significantly altered. The history of the contemporary Middle East is comparable to that of other regions across the globe—a point that I will speak about throughout the semester. This course is, therefore, a case study in world history, and helps you understand how a particular region has dealt with some of the major global transformations in the past few centuries. The lectures and the reading material are complementary. They do not always cover the same themes and topics. However, they are integral to the overall purpose of the course. The lectures and the reading material work together to give you a broad and critical understanding of various countries in today's Middle East.

Student Learning Outcomes

You will learn about

- The economic, social, and political background to the modern period in Middle Eastern history;
- The characteristics of early modern empires in the region;
- The nature and consequences of European colonialism;
- The origins and nature of top-down government reforms in the nineteenth century;
- The rise of nationalism, sectarianism, and constitutionalism in this period;
- The impact of global economic change, the development of socialist ideas and institutions, and two World Wars in the region;
- The origins and development of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
- The spread of religious activism and religious militancy in the Cold War era and after;
- The relations between the West and the Middle East;
- The history and politics of producing knowledge about the Middle East in the West;
- Women and human rights in the Middle East;
- The continuous struggle for civil rights in a number of countries;
- Everyday life in the contemporary Middle East; and
- The development of a post-Islamist era in popular politics.
Course Requirements

Class attendance and taking part in class discussions are required and constitute 15% of your total grade. You may have up to two absences (excused or otherwise) throughout the semester. Any additional absences will affect your participation grade. Your third absence will lower your participation grade by one full letter grade. Your fourth absence will likewise lower your participation grade by another full letter grade. But your fifth absence will result in losing your total grade for class participation (15% of your total grade for the course). Ten absences result in an F for this course.

This class has both lectures and discussions. Your thoughtful questions, comments, and contributions during or after lectures, as well as during discussion sessions indicate how much you are engaged with the course material. You must speak up in class and raise issues that are related to the reading material or lectures. If you have trouble with speaking in class, please come and see me immediately. Beginning with week 2, students will serve as panelists in a small group that leads class discussions on at least one occasion throughout the semester. During discussions, I will keep track of all students who participate fully in class and display familiarity with the reading material and lectures. This information will be factored into your participation grade.

To do well in this class you should do the following:

- Study the reading material very carefully;
- Take notes of what you read;
- Think about the material that you read;
- Organize your thoughts before coming to class;
- Come to class on time;
- Bring the assigned readings to class each week;
- Take notes during lectures, student presentations, and class discussions;
- Raise meaningful and informed comments and questions during class; and
- Listen to and build on your colleagues' comments.

There will be five scheduled reading quizzes throughout the semester which will check on how well you progress with the reading material for this class. These reading quizzes constitute 15% of your grade.

There will be two paper assignments for this course. Together, they constitute 30% of your grade. Each of these papers should be six to eight pages long excluding your title and bibliography pages. The actual body of the paper should be double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides and type size no larger than 12 in Times New Roman. These papers must be neat, clean, free of spelling and grammatical errors, thoughtful, and historically oriented. Papers will be graded down for poor grammar and language problems. I will provide you with paper topics and further instructions at least one week before the due date. Make sure to use footnotes or endnotes according to the Chicago style of citation to document your sources.

We will have a midterm and a final exam (each 20% of your grade) consisting of conceptual questions and identifications of individuals, concepts, and events. These questions will be based on the lectures,
the reading material, the class discussions, and any other material covered in class. I will distribute study guides at least one week before each exam. The final exam will cover the material after the midterm. Please bring your own blue books on exam days.

The breakdown of the grade is as follows:

- Class attendance and participation: 15%
- Five scheduled reading quizzes: 15%
- Paper 1: 15%
- Paper 2: 15%
- Mid-term exam: 20%
- Final exam: 20%

**Late Work, Make-Ups, Alternative Arrangements, or Incompletes**

- Reading quizzes: There will be no make-ups for missed or failed reading quizzes, but I will drop your lowest reading quiz score.
- Papers: Late papers and hard copies will not be accepted.
- Midterm and Final Exams: There will be no make-ups except in documented and verifiable cases of exceptional illness or hardship.
- An Incomplete in this course will be considered only in documented and verifiable cases of exceptional illness or hardship.

**Blackboard**

Throughout the semester, I will make announcements and upload to Blackboard additional material meant to assist you with the coursework. You will also post a copy of all your writing assignments on Blackboard. Do check Blackboard at least a couple of times a week to see the addition of new material.

**Turnitin.com**

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material.

**Course Etiquette & Electronic Devices**

Once class has started, you should refrain from talking, reading out-of-class material, and walking in and out of the room. Out of common courtesy to others and the professor you should absolutely not do these. In addition, you should arrive on time and do not leave before the end of class unless you let me know before class.
This is a paper-based course. That means you must take notes using a traditional notebook and a pen. You would also have to buy traditional books (hard copies). I would, therefore, discourage you to purchase an electronic version of the textbooks. Should you do so, you will still not be able to use your digital books while in class. Computers, phones, tablets, headphones, etc. are not allowed in the classroom. The following statement is thus redundant, but I will make it anyway: texting or emailing is not allowed in class. Texters will be asked to leave the class and will not be allowed back in my classroom until they have met with me individually.

Pay everyone the courtesy of putting away your phone, headphones, tablets, computers, etc. – and turning them completely off.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

Institutions of higher education are founded to impart knowledge, seek truth, and encourage one's development for the good of society. University students shall thus be intellectually and morally obliged to pursue their course of studies with honesty and integrity. Therefore, in preparing and submitting materials for academic courses and in taking examinations, a student shall not yield to cheating or plagiarism, which not only violate academic standards but also make the offender liable to penalties explicit in Section 41301 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations as follows:

*Expulsion, Suspension, and Probation of Students.*

Following procedures consonant with due process established pursuant to Section 41304, any student of a campus may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation, or given a lesser sanction for one or more of the following causes that must be campus related.

**Cheating**

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work by the use of dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to

- copying, in part or in whole, from another's test or other examination;
- discussing answers or ideas relating to the answers on a test or other examination without the permission of the instructor;
- obtaining copies of a test, an examination, or other course material without the permission of the instructor;
- using notes, cheat sheets, or other devices considered inappropriate under the prescribed testing condition;
- collaborating with another or others in work to be presented without the permission of the instructor;
- falsifying records, laboratory work, or other course data;
- submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the rules of the course;
- altering or interfering with the grading procedures;
- plagiarizing, as defined; and
- knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above.
**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the university as one's own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source. Plagiarism shall include but not be limited to:

- submitting work, either in part or in whole, completed by another;
- omitting footnotes for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions that belong to another;
- omitting quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, sentence, or part thereof;
- close and lengthy paraphrasing of the writings of another;
- submitting another person's artistic works, such as musical compositions, photographs, paintings, drawings, or sculptures; and
- submitting as one's own work papers purchased from research companies.

**Disciplinary Action**

Cheating and plagiarism in connection with an academic program at the university may warrant two separate and distinct courses of disciplinary action that may be applied concurrently in response to a violation of this policy:

a. academic sanctions, such as grade modifications; and
b. punitive sanctions, such as probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Academic sanctions are concerned with the student's grades and are the responsibility of the instructor involved. Punitive sanctions are concerned with the student's records and status on campus and shall be the responsibility of the university president or designated representative. The Coordinator of Judiciary Procedures shall be the president's representative in matters of student discipline.

**Accommodation**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

You may consult Student Disability Services at the following web address:

http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/Default.aspx

**Changes to the Syllabus**
The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as he considers appropriate. Whether these changes are given by the instructor orally or in writing, they must be considered as binding course requirements.

**Required Books and Material (available at amazon.com, bn.com, and the campus bookstore)**


Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage, 2006).

Four blue books for the purpose of taking the midterm and final exams.

**WEEK ONE**

Tuesday, January 26

Topic 1: Introduction to Class and General Background
Topic 2: The Middle East from the Rise of Islam to 1800

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK TWO**

Tuesday, February 2

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: The Early Modern Period and the Gunpowder Empires

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK THREE**
Tuesday, February 9

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: Major Themes of the Nineteenth Century
Topic 3: Imperialism and Defensive Developmentalism

**Reading quiz #1 on the reading material covered from Week 1 to the end of week 2.**

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK FOUR**

Tuesday, February 16

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: Social and Cultural Development in the Nineteenth Century
Topic 3: Constitutionalism in Iran and Turkey
Topic 4: An Islamo-Christian Civilization, Part I

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK FIVE**

Tuesday, February 23

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: The First World War and Its Aftermath
Topic 3: Nationalism and “Men of Order” in Turkey and Iran
Topic 4: An Islamo-Christian Civilization, Part II

**Reading quiz #2 on the reading material covered from Week 3 to the end of week 4.**

**Required Readings:**

2011), pp. 180-208. (Part III to the end of chapter 12)


**WEEK SIX**

Tuesday, March 1

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: Colonialism in the Arab Middle East
Topic 3: The Arab-Israeli Conflict
Topic 4: What Went Wrong with the Middle East? Part I

**First paper due in class by noon on March 1**

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK SEVEN**

Tuesday, March 8

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: The Rise and Decline of Arab Nationalism and Oil Politics
Topic 3: Socioeconomic and Political Development in Turkey and Iran

**Required Readings:**


**WEEK EIGHT**

Tuesday, March 15

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: The Cold War and the US Policy
Topic 3: Producing Knowledge about the Middle East
Midterm: The midterm covers all the material covered from week 1 to the end of week 7. Please bring your own blue books on exam days.

Required Readings:


WEEK NINE

Tuesday, March 22

Topic 1: Review of Previous Week's Readings
Topic 2: A Shi'i Revolution and the Rise of Sunni Political Islam

Required Readings:


Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage, 2006), pp. 3-26. (Chapter 1 to the end of chapter 3)

WEEK TEN

Tuesday, April 5

Topic 1: Discussion of Previous and Current Weeks' Readings
Topic 2: The Divergent Paths of Turkey and Iran

Reading quiz #3 on the reading material covered from week 8 to the end of week 9.

Required Readings:


Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage, 2006), pp. 26-83. (Chapter 4 to the end of chapter 8)

WEEK ELEVEN
Tuesday, April 12

Topic 1: Discussion of Current Week's Readings
Topic 2: The Arab Middle East after the Cold War

**Second paper due by noon on April 12**

*Required Reading:*

Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage, 2006), pp. 83-188. (Chapter 9 to the end of chapter 20)

**WEEK TWELVE**

Tuesday, April 19

Topic 1: Discussion of Current Week's Readings
Topic 2: Jihad and Its Context
Topic 3: Social Life and Civil Rights

*Required Reading:*

Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage, 2006), pp. 188-286. (Chapter 21 to the end of chapter 30)

Reading quiz #4 on the reading material covered from week 10 to the end of week 11.

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

Tuesday, April 26

Topic 1: Discussion of Current Week's Readings
Topic 2: Everyday Life in the Middle East

*Required Reading:*

Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (Vintage, 2006), pp. 286-371. (Chapter 31 to the end of chapter 37)

**WEEK FOURTEEN**

Tuesday, May 3

Topic 1: Discussion of Current Week's Readings
Topic 2: Popular Politics in the Region: Towards Post-Islamism?
Topic 3: Voices from the Edge of the Middle East
Reading quiz #5 on the reading material covered from week 12 to the end of week 13.

**Required Reading:**


**WEEK FIFTEEN**

Tuesday, May 10

**Final exam scheduled at 4:00-6:00 PM:** The final exam covers all the material covered from week 8 to the end of week 14. Please bring your own blue books on exam days.